

94/01587

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Rising Sun HS/Middle School Survey Number: CE-1542

Project: proposed rehabilitation Agency: S/PSCP

Site visit by MHT Staff: no x yes Name L. Bowlin Date 06-14-94

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended X

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)
Located on Pearl Street in Rising Sun, this educational facility was constructed as a high school in 1930. Rising 2 stories and exhibiting a Colonial Revival design, Rising Sun High School has recently been converted for use as a middle school. The original building is characterized by a slate gable roof, symmetrical facade, water table and oculus window. To serve the growing student population, the high school underwent two additions which more than doubled the square footage of the building. The additions in 1951 and 1968 engulf the historic section and compromise the building's historic integrity. The attached floor plan demonstrates the overwhelming nature of the later construction. Because of the loss of architectural integrity, I believe that the Rising Sun High School/Middle School is not eligible for the Maryland Register.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: survey vertical files under Rising High Sc and the compliance project file under Kenmore Elementary/Rising Sun

Prepared by: Cecil County Board of Education

L.L. Bowlin
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services 6 July 1994
Date

NR program concurrence: X yes no not applicable

R. Anderson
Reviewer, NR program 7 11-94
Date

JMS

Survey No. CE-1542

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- ☒ Eastern Shore
☐ Western Shore
☐ Piedmont
☐ Western Maryland
- (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles,
Prince George's and St. Mary's)
(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll,
Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
☐ Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
☐ Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
☐ Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
☐ Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
☐ Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
☐ Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
☐ Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
☐ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
☐ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
☒ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
☐ Unknown Period (☐ prehistoric ☐ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- ☐ Subsistence
☐ Settlement
☐ Political
☐ Demographic
☐ Religion
☐ Technology
☐ Environmental Adaption

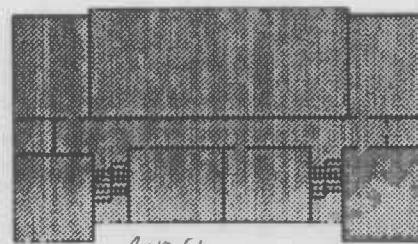
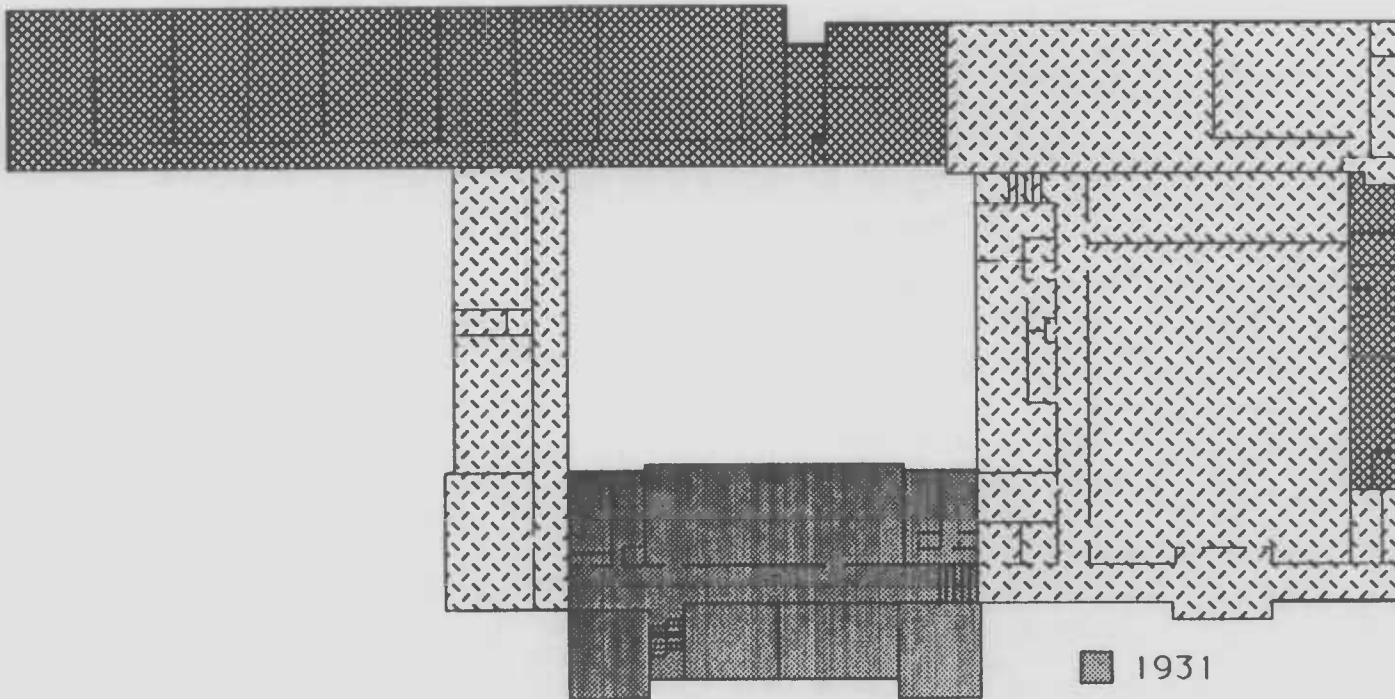
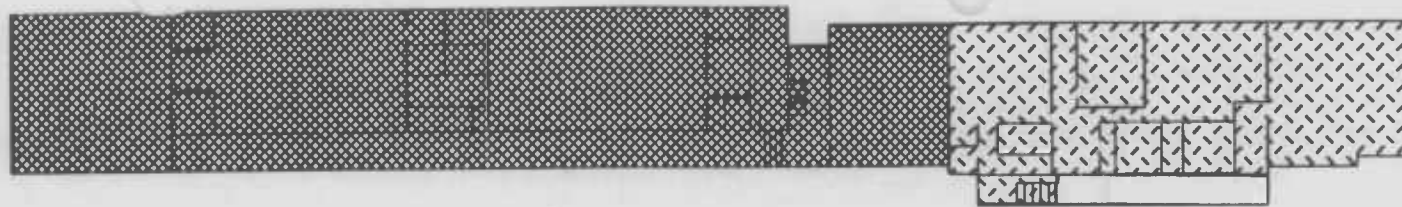
IV. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
☐ Architecture, Landscape Architecture,
and Community Planning
☐ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
☐ Government/Law
☐ Military
☐ Religion
☒ Social/Educational/Cultural
☐ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building
Historic Environment: village
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): educational, high school, middle school

Known Design Source: 1932: Clyde N. Friz, Nelson Friz



2ND FL

1931

1950

1965

Rising Sun Middle School

0 10 20 30 40 50 60

Scale : 1" = 60'

Gross Sq. Ft: 98,600

UC-1542

THE COMMUNITY

Rising Sun, Pa.
CE-1542

Cecil County: The Rising Sun Area

"The Rising Sun" public house, located in the village of Summer Hill, was the regular stopping place of travelers on their way to and from the markets of Lancaster, Philadelphia, and Wilmington in the early 1700's. It was also a place for holding meetings, as well as elections. The expression, "We'll see you at *The Rising Sun*," was so often repeated by travelers that eventually the town itself became known as Rising Sun.

Among the travelers who passed through Rising Sun in its early days were George Washington, Lafayette and William Penn. On one of Penn's visits to the area in 1701, he is said to have marked the spot for the site of the Brick Meeting House. When Lafayette passed through Rising Sun on his way to join General Greene in Yorktown in 1781, he is supposed to have slept under Richard's Oak. In addition, the tailor and friend of George Washington, Captain Leonard Krauss, is buried in the family plot near town.

Dr. Samuel Finley, a native of Ireland and one of the most distinguished scholars of the 18th century, is thought to have built the original Nottingham School on Pearl Street in Rising Sun. Almost all the industry in the town at that time was located on this connecting road to the Port Deposit-Lancaster Road.

In 1872, there was a fire that destroyed much of the town. Then in 1921, there was another fire that virtually leveled everything in Rising Sun. However, with determination, optimism and sheer hard work, the town was rebuilt stronger and better than ever.

Today, the location of Rising Sun in the north central portion of Cecil County and its proximity to the major transportation routes connecting Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia, make it appealing to many prospective homeowners. It has become a "bedroom town". Many area farmers are finding the only solution to the many problems in agriculture is to sell their farms to real estate developers. The developers, due to a scarcity of undeveloped land and the higher land values in neighboring Newark, Delaware and Harford County, Maryland, are eagerly buying farmland in the area of Rising Sun. At the present time, the population of Rising Sun is approximately 1,700 and is expected to double in the next ten years. The population of the rural areas surrounding the town is about 25,000.

In 1931, the first high school in Rising Sun was built. There were additions made in 1950 and 1962. Up through the year 1957, the elementary grades were housed in a two-story wood and brick structure adjacent to the high school, with grade six being taught in the high school. With the building of an elementary school on Hopewell Road, about one mile from the town itself in 1957, dedication ceremonies were held in 1958 and grades one through six moved into the new building. The following school year, grade six was moved back to the high school because of overcrowded conditions. The only addition to the school since 1957 was then made in 1963, which allowed the sixth grade to return to the elementary building. In 1973, a four room relocatable was added to alleviate crowding and to make room for the first kindergarten classes. Since that time, the school has gained five more classrooms by installing three additional relocatables. Currently, three more relocatables have been requested for the school year 1989-90.

The residents of Rising Sun are family-oriented and take great interest and pride in the education of their children. The PTA of the elementary school has long been one of the strongest and most active in the county. Life in Rising Sun revolves around children and their activities. Since it is a small, rural town, most of these activities are school related. With the increasing population, the demand for better facilities in which to educate their children and in which to enable more community activities to be developed, has increased. The citizens of Rising Sun have shown their determination and spirit throughout the years. With better educational facilities they may continue to exhibit this same spirit for years to come.

THE COMMUNITY

The area encompassed by the Rising Sun Middle School attendance area is bounded by the Susquehanna River to the west and the Little Elk Creek and Blake Road to the east. This northern section of Cecil County is richly endowed with significant historical and educational backgrounds.

As recorded by Captain John Smith during his exploratory voyage of 1608, the northwestern corner of Cecil County was the hunting, fishing and trading grounds of the Susquehannock Indians. The Indians established a palisaded village at the mouth of the Octoraro Creek and called it Conewago or Conowingo, which in the language of the Susquehannocks meant "at the rapids or falls."

The Susquehanna continued to bring settlers and economic growth through farms, mills, fishing and lumbering; but the most significant changes occurred in 1928 when the Philadelphia Electric Company harnessed those falls into hydro-electric power.

Further to the east, William Penn received a grant of an 18,000 acre parcel of land. The year was 1682, one year after he had established the area known as Pennsylvania. This new grant was laid out into 37 land plots known as the Nottingham Lots. In 1701, Penn led a small group of members of the Friends' Society to this land and dedicated land to them and their successors for the combined purposes of public worship, the right of burial ground, and the privilege of education.

The Friends' Society (also known as Quakers) held regular meetings in this area. In 1724 on the land known as the Commons, the Brick Meeting House was built. The village, then known as Brick Meeting House, is now the community of Calvert.

It has been established that the village of "Summer Hill" had its beginning about 1710 to 1720 when a miller whose residence and mill was Stone Run (Nottingham Lot #5) built a public house at the crossroads. The front of this tavern was adorned with a swinging sign depicting the sun at dawn and the name "The Rising Sun". Because of its location on the well-travelled road in the middle of the markets at Lancaster, Wilmington and Philadelphia, this old hostelry was the place for holding elections and was the general meeting place for many business transactions. The popularity of the tavern and the often heard phrase "we'll meet at the Rising Sun" eventually gave the town its present name. The first meeting house of "Little Brick" or West Nottingham Friends was erected on Part of Penn's Lot #20, one and one-fourth miles southwest of Rising Sun.

All this time, William Penn believed these lots to be part of Pennsylvania but Lord Baltimore believed them to be part of Maryland. To settle this fierce dispute, the surveyors of Mason and Dixon were sent out to establish a definite line of ownership. The line, still in effect today, separating the states and known as the Mason-Dixon Line, places the vast majority of those 18,000 acres in Cecil County, Maryland.

Since much of this land was settled by the Quakers, who are dedicated to education, the fact that the first log schoolhouse was built by them near the Brick Meeting House in 1730 is most appropriate. The earliest and most famous school in the community was built near Rising Sun in 1741 by Dr. Samuel Finley. This school, then known as Dr. Finley's Nottingham School, is presently known as West Nottingham Academy.

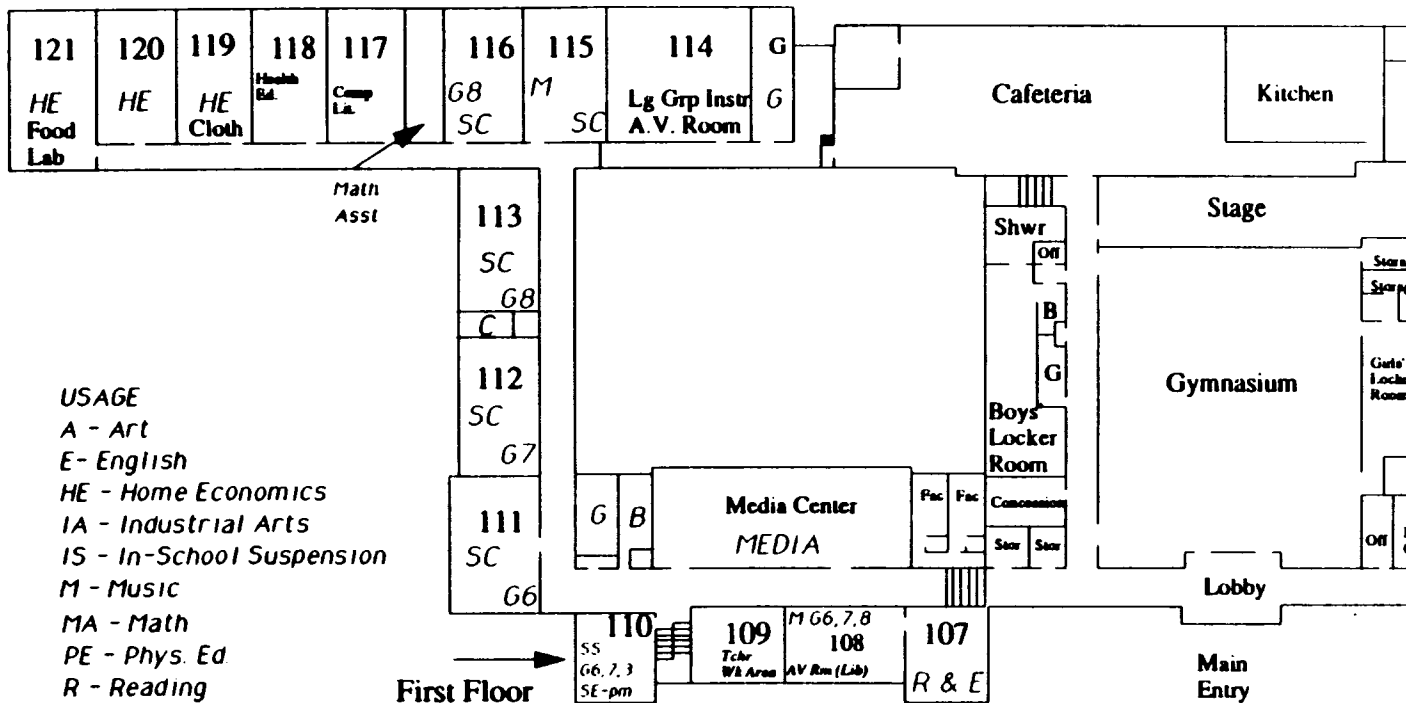
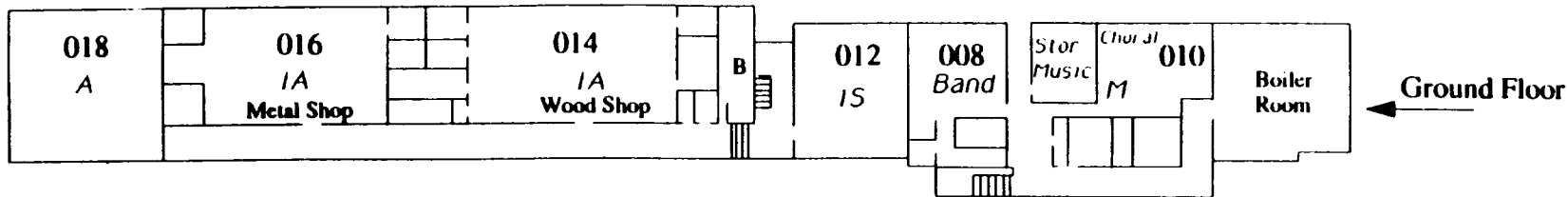
The importance of education to the communities is quite evident through the many private schools opened in the area before public education began. The Stone Schoolhouse opened around the 1780's and the first Rising Sun school was built on the same property as the present school in 1829.

The Cecil County Public School System was established in 1845 and built the Rosebank School in the Calvert area. Soon after, in 1864, Rising Sun's first public school was erected on the present school site. The area was not without secondary education also, for in 1876 the Friends Normal Institute began in Rising Sun and was soon followed by the Friends Select School in Calvert. Another private school dedicated to the college-bound, which operated in Rising Sun from 1900-1940, was Miss Mabel Reynolds' School.

In 1906, the Friends Select School was leased by the Cecil County Board of Education and became the Calvert Agriculture High School; then in 1920-21, high school courses were added at the Rising Sun High School. Rising Sun graduated its first class of four in 1924.

The present Rising Sun Middle School was built in three stages; the first building in 1932, with additions in 1951 and 1968. Students from Conowingo, Calvert, Leeds and Rising Sun Elementary Schools comprise its student body.

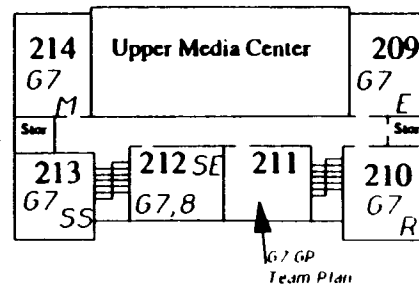
The area still remains a rural community with residents committed to quality education. Many families may still trace their genealogy back to the early settlers and the area is still a crossroads to many large industrial areas. Students in the school, therefore, represent a broad spectrum of family backgrounds from long-established farming families to newly located industrial-management families. It is a dynamic student body that demands a flexible and adaptive program, staff, and facility to meet its needs - both educationally and socially.



USAGE
 A - Art
 E - English
 HE - Home Economics
 IA - Industrial Arts
 IS - In-School Suspension
 M - Music
 MA - Math
 PE - Phys. Ed
 R - Reading
 SC - Science
 SE - Special Ed
 SS - Social Studies
 W - Writing

First Floor

Second Floor



Second Floor

First Floor

Rising Sun Middle School

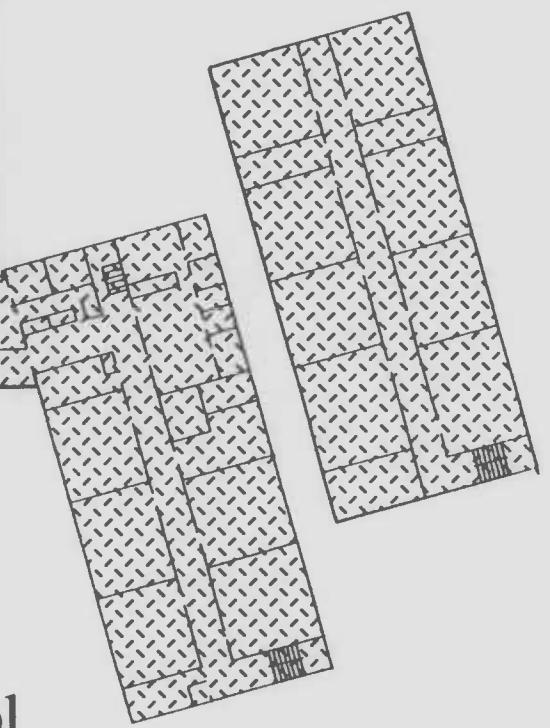
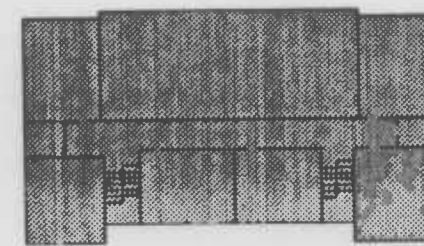
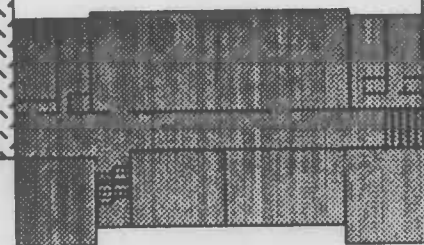
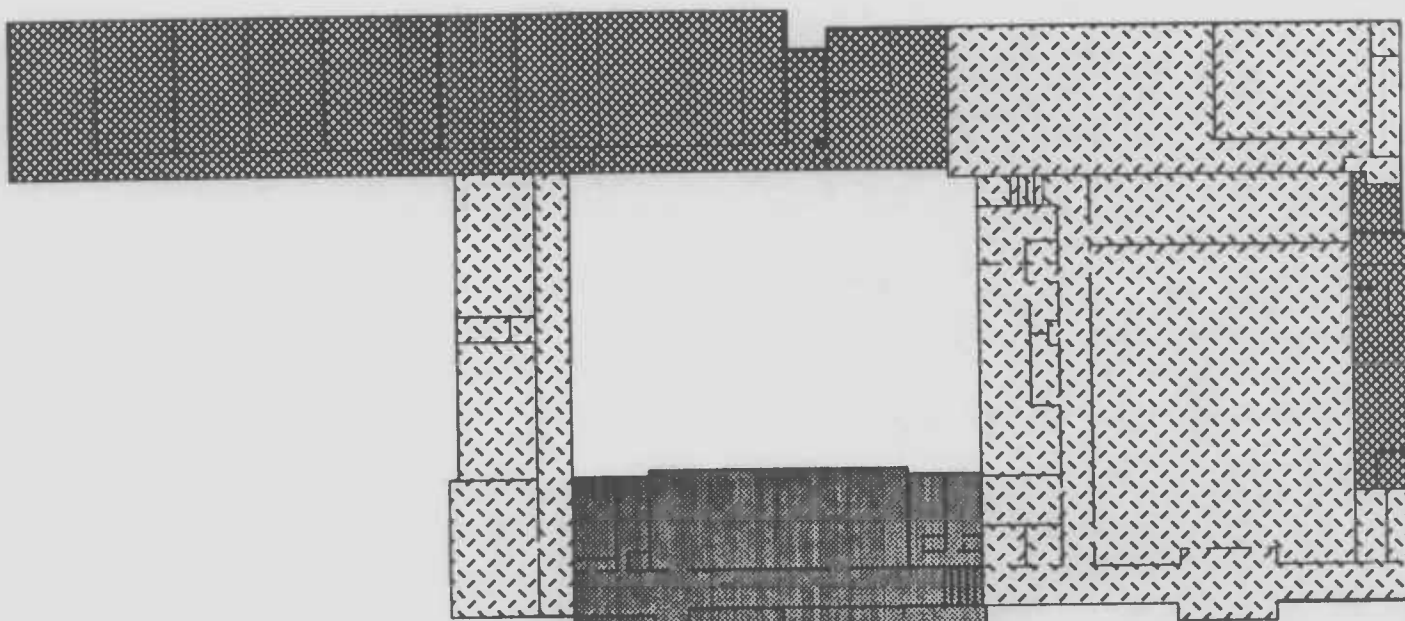
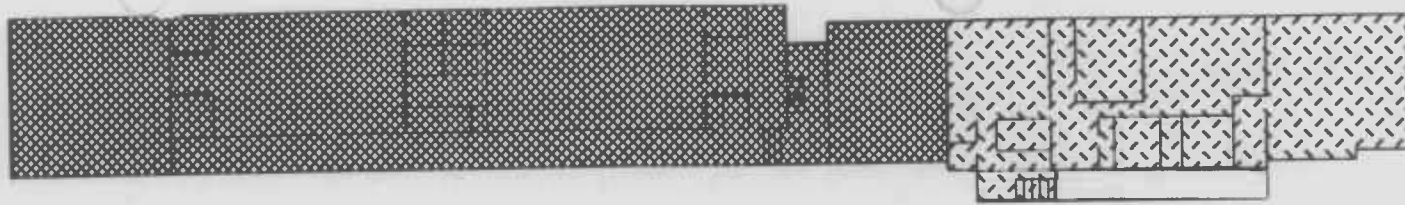
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Scale : 1" = 60'

Gross Sq. Ft: 98,600

Revised for 1993-94 school year.

CE-1542



- 1931
- ▨ 1950
- ▩ 1965

Rising Sun Middle School

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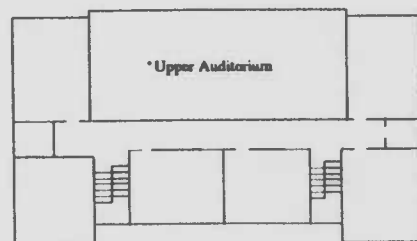
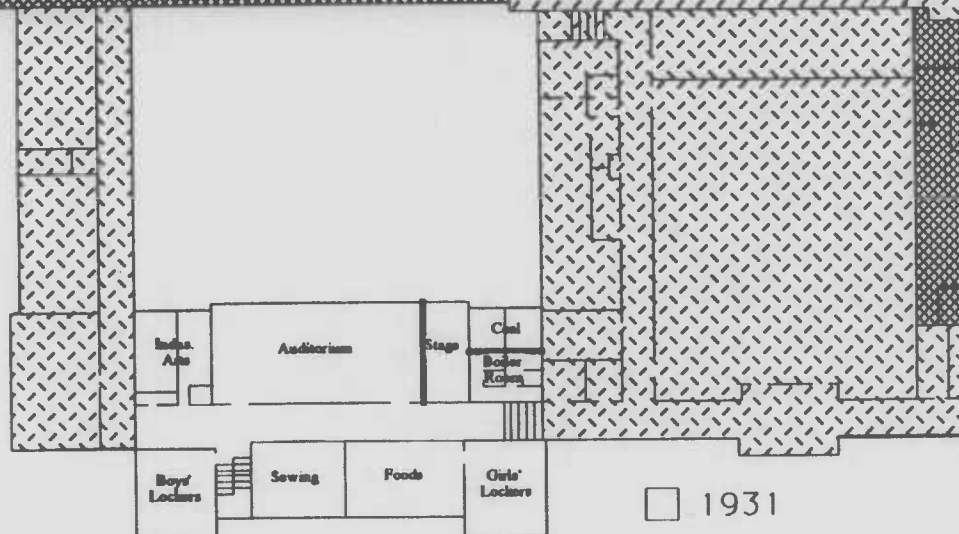
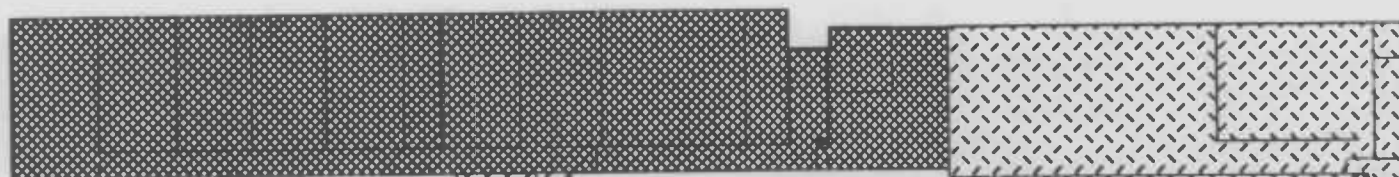
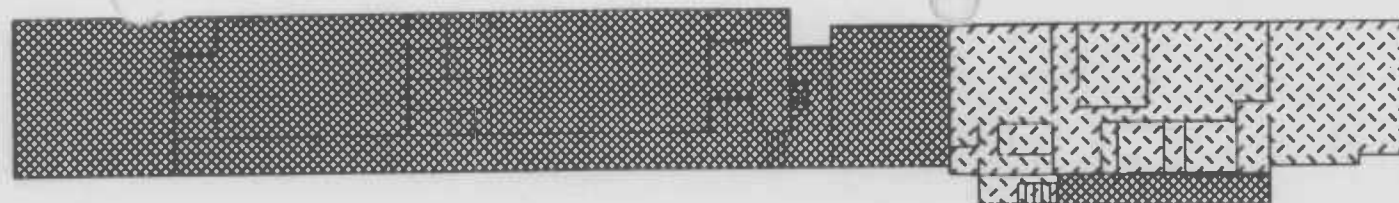
Scale : 1" = 60'

Gross Sq. Ft: 98,600

CE-1542

1931

The original 1931 two story building included an auditorium/gymnasium, coal fired boiler locker rooms, industrial arts, and home economics on the first floor. Six general use classrooms were on the second floor. Wall hung radiators provided heat distribution.



1931

1950

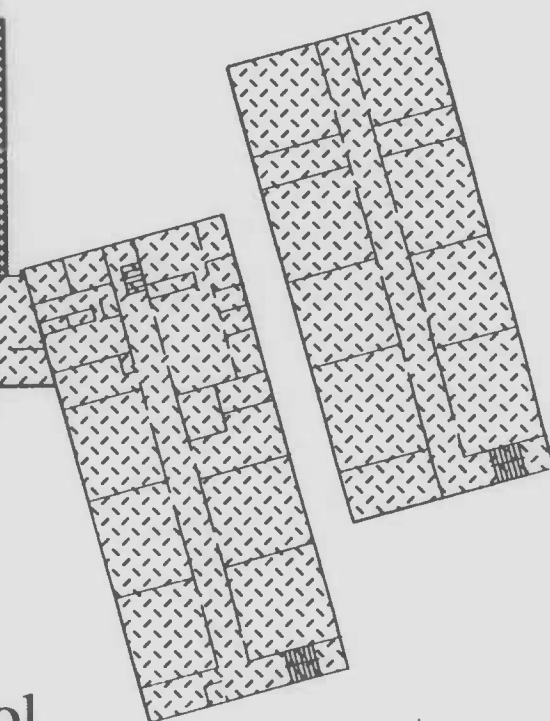
1965

Rising Sun Middle School

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Scale : 1" = 60'

Gross Sq. Ft: 98,600

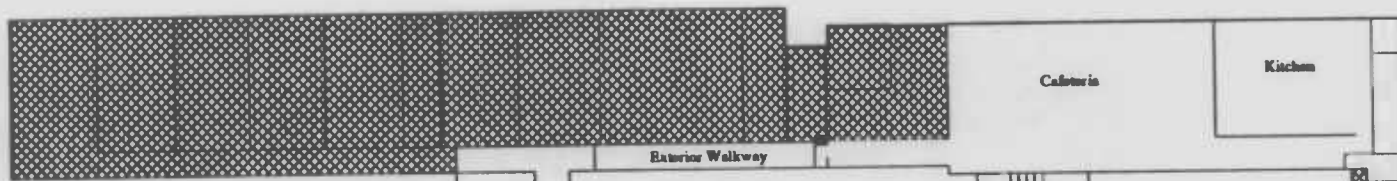
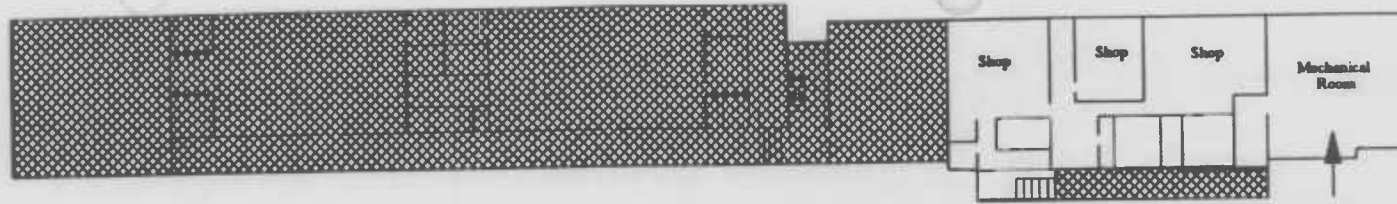


OE-1542

1950

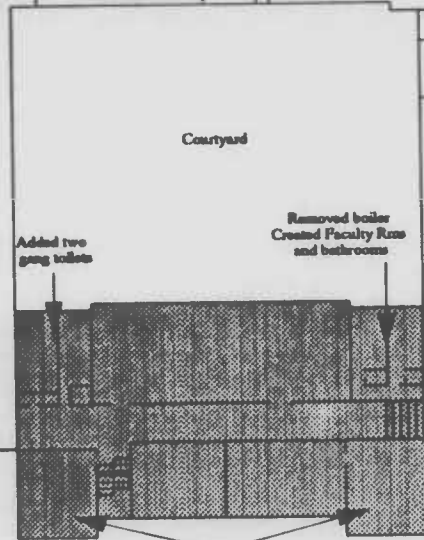
In 1950 a bus circle was added in front of the new entrance. A gymnasium, boys' locker room, stage, cafeteria, and kitchen was added on the same level as the first floor of the new two story elementary wing of 14 classrooms and office space.

A high school wing for business, science and library was added on the same level as the first floor of the original building. Below the new cafeteria and kitchen the ground floor included shop areas and a new mechanical room with two oil fired steam boilers. In the 1931 building the locker rooms were made into classrooms, the industrial arts room became two rest rooms, and the mechanical room became two faculty rooms and rest rooms. Thermostats and speakers were added to the classrooms.



High School Wing

Business
Typing
Science
Library



Added two gang toilets

Removed boiler
Created Faculty Room
and bathrooms

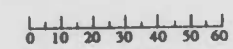
Removed lockers and
fixtures. Created Classrooms

1931

1950

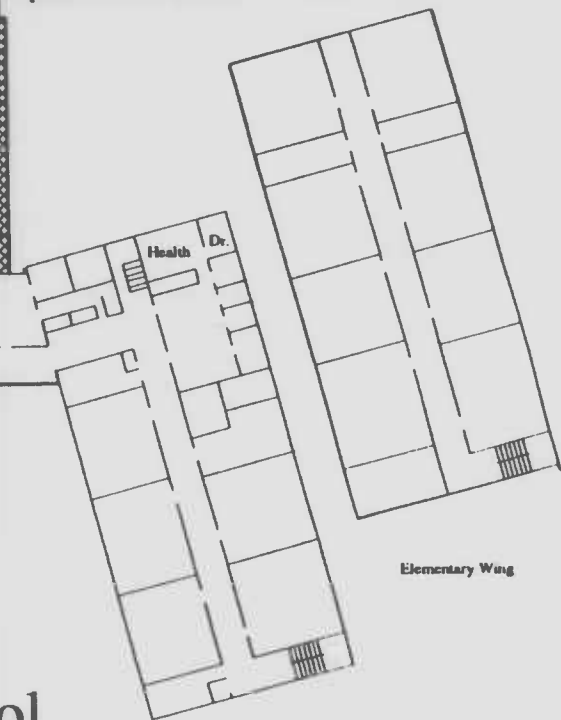
1965

Rising Sun Middle School



Scale : 1" = 60'

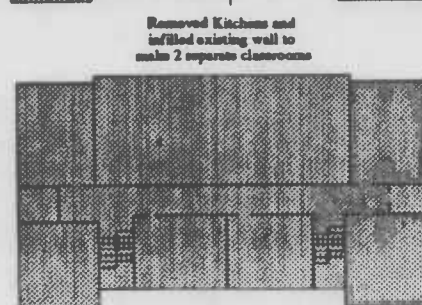
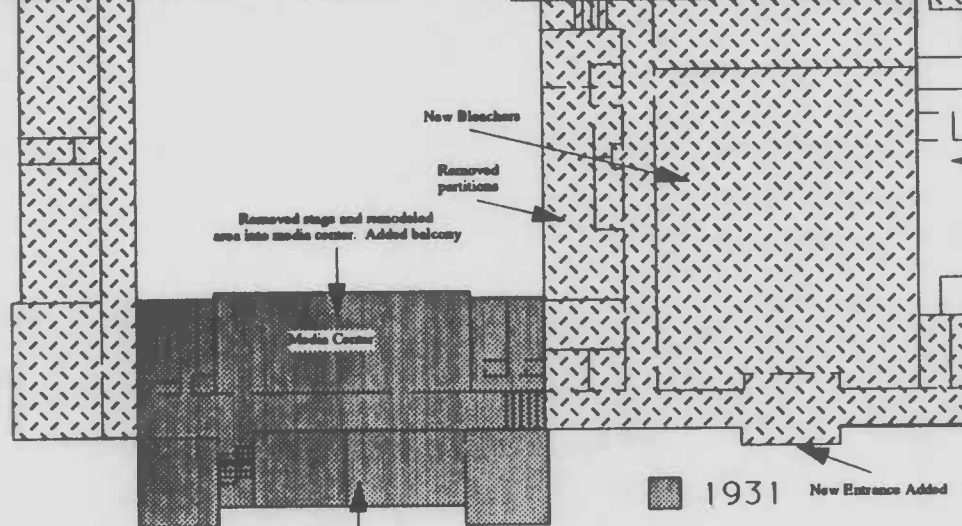
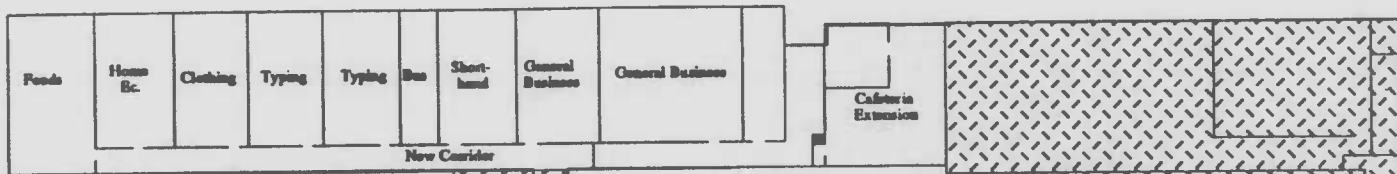
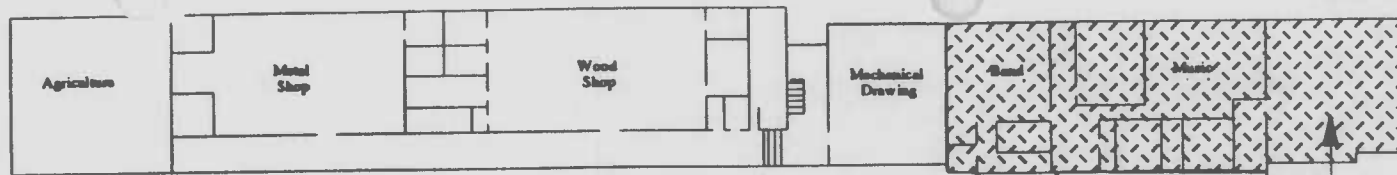
Gross Sq. Ft: 98,600



Elementary Wing

UC-1542

1965



- 1931
- 1950
- 1965

Rising Sun Middle School

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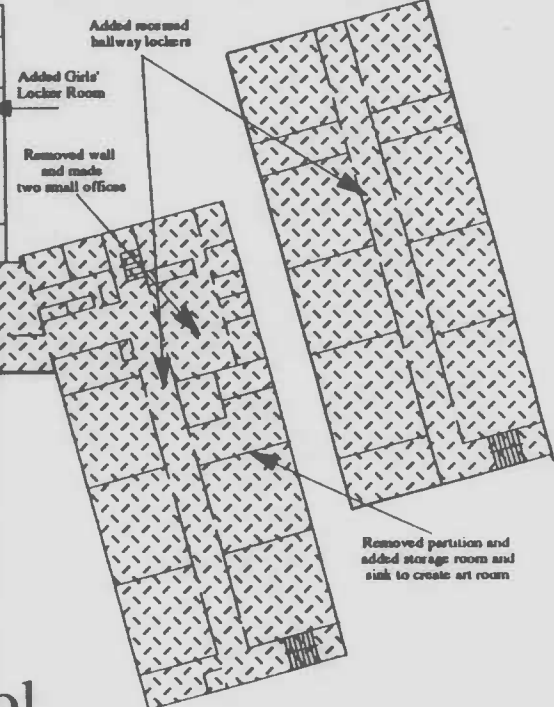
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In 1965 the bus circle in front was removed and a loop added out to the road. A tiny high school addition of shops, business classrooms, and home economics classrooms was added to the back of the school. In addition, the cafeteria was expanded and interior corridors added to tie together the new wing to the existing structures. A girls' locker room and storage was added to the existing gymnasium. A new corridor was built in the existing crawl space under the cafeteria to connect to the remodeled music rooms and the boiler room.

In the 1950 addition, the existing shop areas were remodeled into music rooms, practice rooms, storage, and a mechanical drawing area. A new entrance was also added in front of the gymnasium. Some partitions were removed in the boys' locker room. An art room was created, hallway lockers added, and 2 offices made in the elementary wing.

In the 1931 building, the auditorium area was remodeled into the media center and a balcony added. Kitchens were removed from the old home economics rooms.



DE-1542

CE-1542

RISING SUN HIGH SCHOOL/MIDDLE SCHOOL
PEARL STREET, RISING SUN
RISING SUN QUAD
CECIL COUNTY

